



Media Advisory
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Grassroots America Responds to Smith County GOP Executive Committee Actions to Remove Smith County Republican Party Chairman from Office

Tyler, Texas – Grassroots America has received numerous inquiries regarding February 18, 2019, news reports about a process initiated by a group of Smith County Republican Executive Committee members to remove the current Smith County Republican Party Chairman – Mr. Brent Thompson – from office.

At least one report cited Grassroots America in describing the move to oust the Smith County Republican Party Chairman, stating, “Voters [elected Thompson](#) to his seat as chairman in 2016. He unseated incumbent Tim McCormick with support from the Grassroots America — We the People Political Action Committee.”

The link back to their [March 16, 2016](#) news article about Mr. Thompson’s primary election win also contained a very relevant quote from Grassroots America’s Executive Director, JoAnn Fleming:

“JoAnn Fleming, executive director of that organization, said her group supported Thompson, because of his commitment to principle.

‘I think Grassroots America was looking for someone who was going to have an active party here,’ she said late Tuesday. ‘We want a party that will hold its Republican elected officials accountable for what they say they’re going to do. We were very impressed with Mr. Thompson.’”

Today, JoAnn Fleming released this statement, “**Grassroots America’s endorsement of any candidate for public office does not constitute a lifetime commitment.** Should any of our endorsed candidates win election, they know full well that we will hold them accountable once they are in office. People are past weary of elected officials who promise one thing and govern completely differently. **This case is no different.**”

Fleming added, “At this time, Grassroots America’s Board of Directors is reviewing details about the complaints against Mr. Thompson from **duly elected Republican Party Precinct Chairs and other party officials, who themselves took an oath of office.** Some want to trivialize this matter as a silly turf battle. **It is not.**

“Based on many observations we have made ourselves, and numerous complaints we received from candidates, party officials, and the general public during the 2018 Primary and General Elections, **I can state without reservation, that Mr. Thompson has made himself ineligible for any future endorsement from Grassroots America.** The Board will contemplate future action in support of the Smith County Republican Party Precinct Chairs once we have had a chance to review all the facts. **For us, this is about accountability, transparency, and the commitments Mr. Thompson made about how he would conduct himself if Grassroots America’s Board supported his election. He has failed on those commitments – period.**”

